(iv) Deferment of interest payment on outstanding GoI loans as on 31.3.2003 up to 31.3.2004. The deferred interest shall be converted into loan on 31.3.2004 and repaid along with outstanding principal as at (ii) above.

In addition, the Government has also decided to extend financial assistance to FACT, the quantum of which is to be decided after inter-ministerial consultations, for implementing voluntary retirement scheme in the company.

Disinvestment in Rajasthan

1002. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the sectors in Rajasthan which are under consideration for disinvestment;

(b) the details of the public sector companies in the State where disinvestment process has already been initiated;

(c) whether Government have overlooked on reviving sick PSU's in the State either by Central funding or private participation; and

(d) if not, the details of the reviews thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Disinvestment is being considered in five Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) namely, (i) Hindustan Salts Ltd., (ii) Instrumentation Ltd., (iii) Rajasthan Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd., (iv) Rajasthan Electronics and Instruments Ltd., (REIL) and (v) Sambhar Salts Ltd., which are located in Rajasthan and in one Hotel property of ITDC located at Jaipur.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Government has taken steps for the revival of PSUs in Rajasthan through disinvestment to Strategic Partners. Hindustan Zinc Ltd. has already been disinvested in 2002 and its functioning and profitability have improved since disinvestment. In the case of

Instrumentation Ltd., the Strategic Partner has already been selected for one unit located at Palkkad and disinvestment of the remaining units and its subsidiary REIL is under consideration. Rajasthan Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd., which is a subssidiary of Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. has been referred to the administrative Ministry for Disinvestment. The case of Hindustan Salts Ltd. and Sambhar Salts Ltd. have been referred to the administrative ministry to resolve some pending issues prior to disinvestment. Disinvestment process is on in respect of Hotel Jaipur Ashok, Jaipur. The disinvestment of Hindustan Copper Ltd., which has a copper mine in Rajasthan, is at the stage of calling for financial bids, but is not being pursued pending a resolution of the issues arising from the judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in HPCL and BPCL.

Apprehension of BALCO workers

1003. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI N.R. DASARI:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the apprehension of the BALCO workers that the Sterlite Group is trying to sell BALCO to a foreign company Twinstar despite a three year lock-in-period on sale; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government disinvested 51% of its equity in BALCO through strategic sale in favour of M/s Sterlite Industries (India) Ltd. As per the terms of the Shareholders Agreement entered into at the time of disinvestment, the Strategic Partner is barred from transferring of these shares for a period of three years from the date of disinvestment. The proposal of M/s Twinstar Holdings Ltd., Mauritius to enhance its shareholding in M/s Sterlite Industries (India) Ltd. does not attract the provisions of the Shareholders Agreements, since BALCO will continue to be controlled and managed by the Strategic Partner, M/s Sterlite Industries (India) Ltd.